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PAMPHLET

ON THE EFFECTS

OF THE

Sulphurous Fumigating

BATHS,

IN THE CURE OF

SCORBUTIC AND OTHER CUTANEOUS DISEASES,

RHEUMATISM, GOUT, &c. &c.

BY

JOHN DICK,

PROPRIETOR OF THE SULPHUROUS FUMIGATING BATHS,

8, Maddox Street,

HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON,

AND

4, EAST CLIFF, BRIGHTON.

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On Sulphurous Fumigation,

IN THE CURE OF RHEUMATISM, &c. &c.

And the various DISEASES of the SKIN.

CUTANEOUS Eruptions are generally supposed to arise from perspiration experiencing a sudden check, and then can only be effectually relieved by such remedies as restore its action. To discover this has been a desideratum among the faculty for centuries, but altho' numerous medicines have been held forth to the public, and acted upon by men of the first eminence in the profession, still no certain remedy has been discovered.

Dr. Galés, an eminent french physician, by indefatigable researches, had the good fortune to discover, perhaps the only real method of cure. Deeply impressed with the wonderful powers of Sulphur when volatilized, he determined to try its effects in the cure of cutaneous erup-

tions, to effect which, he inclosed the whole body of the patient, (excepting the face) in a machine or Bath, which he had constructed for the purpose. Numerous experiments proved the importance of the discovery on persons afflicted with various cutaneous eruptions, among which were the impetigo or ring worm, herpes, tenia capitis or scal'd head, itch, &c. &c. and such was his success, that he was induced to open a very large establishment for the benefit of his fellow citizens at Paris. Several of the patients who were thus cured of impetiginous affections were also variously afflicted at the same time with rheumatism, paralytic affections, gout and scrophulous humours, which the Dry Sulphurous Fumigating Bath appeared to act upon powerfully, by increasing the circulation of the blood, dispersing the humours, and relaxing the parts which had become stiffened by colds, bruises, sprains, &c.

The Dry Sulphurous Fumigating Bath, acts as a powerful stimulant, producing natural perspiration over the whole body, thereby increasing the action of the blood, and raising

the pulse from its natural state of 70 or 80 beats in a minute, to 100 or 110.

The effects of sulphur in a state of gas or vapour are amazing, being speedily received into the body, and by its stimulating properties increasing digestion, and causing cutaneous absorption.

To females suffering from irregular or suppressed menstruation, which has baffled all the powers of medicine and art united, the application of a few Baths have caused the menstrual evacuation to return and become perfectly regular.

Sulphur is not the only mineral employed in the administration of these Baths, various medicaments, as opium, camphor, mercury, æther, alcohol, ammonia, &c. being employed according to the nature of the case.

Every comfort and convenience is strictly attended to; proper servants, both male and female, being employed for the purpose; while

the whole is under the immediate direction of the proprietor.

As a further proof of the utility of the Dry Sulphurous Fumigating Baths, and to shew the public, how highly they are thought of by the most eminent among the faculty, I think it advisable to give increased publicity to an extract from the Medical Analytical Review, No. 4, March 1821.

Consulting Physicians—Dr. BATEMAN and
Sir MATTHEW TIERNEY.

Physicians—Dr. THOMPSON, Dr. VETCH and
Dr. ASHBURNER.

Surgeons—Mr. CARPUE and Mr. WADD.

“We are gratified to find, from a report of the committee to the patrons of this very meritorious institution, that between the 1st January, 1820, and the 1st January, 1821, 245 cases of cutaneous complaints were treated, most of them being cured, and almost all relieved.” The eminent relief and comfort experienced by many indigent families, in vari-

ous parts of this extensive metropolis, from the use of the Baths, and the medicines gratuitously supplied to them, afford unequivocal proof of the utility of the institution. Small as is the number of patients admitted, compared with similar institutions of other capitals, yet the variety of cutaneous diseases, we understand was such, that almost every one described in Willian's splendid work has been seen here.

“ One among many remarkable and instructive cases the medical officers wish to bring under your notice. It was an inveterate instance of the pompholy, which had resisted the various treatments of several hospitals. It occurred in a young girl; her sufferings were not to be described; but by the use of the Baths, and some internal medicines, she now enjoys a comparative degree of health and comfort, and her tender age renders it extremely probable, that the cure may be as permanent as it has been satisfactory.”—
Report of the committee.

Many of the most distinguished medical characters in the profession, (among whom we need only name a Halford and a Bailie) have patronized the institution, and we conceive that it is only to make its existence known to a liberal public, in order to secure a still greater support. To the profession we think it is a most desirable thing, that an institution, directed by medical officers of such respectability, should be at hand to assist the remedial treatment of a class of diseases, which have hitherto proved opprobria of the healing art.

ON RHEUMATISM.

Chronic rheumatism is more commonly met with in this country than the acute, and is frequently brought on by old sprains and bruises, or lying in damp sheets, which, by making the parts stiff, cause it to be a considerable time before any relief can be obtained by the ordinary practice. This state of the disease frequently puts on the appearance of paralysis, from the great loss of voluntary motion, owing to the extreme pain and tension of the parts. The

first object in view is to restore perspiration in the parts affected, which is to be done by means of the Dry Sulphurous Fumigating-Bath in a more certain way than by any other means hitherto employed. At the moment the patient begins to feel the perspiration flow, there is commonly a sensation of ease and motion, even in joints which have been stiffened by disease for a considerable period. The effect of the Bath is greatly heightened by the aid of various medicaments used in a state of gas or vapour, which have, from their extreme diffusibility, the power of being received into the pores of the body; and which, by exciting the action of the skin, evidently tend to increase perspiration. These are used, either partially or otherwise, over the whole extent of the body.

The following Cases will serve as an illustration of what has been here advanced.

Case 1st. Mr. M. A.—a gentleman about 35 years of age, of a robust constitution and generally good health, in consequence of a severe cold caught while on a journey, was seized

a day or two after his return home with excruciating pains in his limbs and feet, which increased on the smallest motion to an alarming degree, so that he was under the necessity of keeping his bed, where he underwent the usual medical treatment for several weeks; but not finding himself better, determined to try the effect of the Dry Sulphurous Fumigating Baths, which had been recommended him by a friend when first seized. Having persevered in taking the Baths daily for three weeks, found himself perfectly cured.

Case 2d. Mr. N. M.—affected with chronic rheumatism, which he had been subject to at every change of the weather for several years, was induced to try the Dry Sulphurous Baths, which, in a very short period, afforded him more relief than any thing he had ever before used, by restoring the circulation and bringing on an increase of the insensible perspiration. Having continued them about a month, was thoroughly restored.

Case 3rd. Mr. T. B.—a carpenter, of a full habit of body, health generally good, afflicted

with chronic rheumatism in his right thigh and knee, which occasioned him considerable pain, and, in a great measure, incapacitated him from following his work, was recommended to try the effect of the Dry Sulphurous Baths. After having taken his fourth bath, complained of a sense of extremely cold perspiration on the part affected (the effect of the Baths when they have attacked the complaint,) but which diminished each day; and having taken eight baths, was completely restored.

Affection of the Muscles of the Side.

Case 1st. Mrs. C.—a lady about 55 years of age, of a naturally strong constitution, having received a severe blow on the side from a fall, which created great pain and inflammation of the small nerves and muscles of the side, and caused her for several weeks to keep her bed, had been under the immediate care of three of the first physicians in London, by whom her complaint was pronounced “Tic doloieux” of the nerves of the side; but they not being able to give any effectual relief, advised her to go to

the sea-side, and for some months try the effect of the warm sea-water baths. Having put their advice in practice, and not meeting with the desired success, she was persuaded to try the effect of the Dry Sulphurous Baths :—having taken 24 baths, she found herself restored to her usual health. I should previously have mentioned, that, from the excess of pain in the side, she had not for some months been able to wear any stays, nor her clothes the least tight; neither could she walk, unless with the hand strongly pressed upon the part; from all these wretched sensations she was relieved, before she had finished taking the Baths.

LUMBAGO.

Mr. A. R. had been for some months subject to a violent pain in the lower region of the back and loins, from sleeping in a damp bed. Having previously received the best advice, without deriving the hoped-for benefit, made up his mind to take the Dry Sulphurous Baths; and having taken ten in one week, found himself relieved from his complaint, with all its distressing accompaniments.

SCIATIC RHEUMATISM.

This stage of rheumatism is generally met with among persons of a bilious habit of body, and those suffering from indigestion. The gentleman attacked with this formidable complaint was about 45 years of age, of a strong but bilious constitution. He had been attacked by the disease while in the country, from which he suffered the most intense agony; the pain extending from the hip to the ankle, and occasionally crossing the back and loins, and affecting both hips: in a short time he became so weakened, as to be unable to walk across the room without experiencing the most acute pain. A gentleman who had received benefit from the Dry Sulphurous Baths, accidentally calling upon him, persuaded him to try them. At the sixth bath he found himself relieved from the excessive pain; and having taken 25 baths, was perfectly cured.

MERCURIAL RHEUMATISM.

Mr. W. J.—a journeyman looking-glass frame maker, attacked by severe rheumatism in his arms and legs, from having caught cold while under the influence of mercury, was for a considerable time under medical advice, and not getting better was recommended to go to the sea-side, and try the warm baths, which he had used nearly 30 times without advantage, before applying for the benefit of the Dry Sulphurous Fumigating Baths. At the time of his first taking them, the elbow joint of the right arm was nearly stiffened, but which gradually gave way to the effect of the Baths; and having taken 17 in all, was enabled to resume his business.

RHEUMATIC GOUT.

Mr. R. G.—afflicted with the above complaint, having taken two of these Baths, found himself so completely relieved from pain, as to find the taking any more perfectly unnecessary.

HEADACHE from MERCURY.

The subject of this complaint was a gentleman, 24 years of age, who while under the influence of mercury, bathed in the open sea, and in consequence was afflicted for several months with severe illness, which eventually settled in his head, causing constant headache, which he stated had lasted nearly three years. Having taken three Baths he assured me that his complaint had entirely left him.

AMENORHEA, or MENSTRUATION.

There are, perhaps, more diseases among females, arising from a suppression or irregularity of the menstrual discharge, than from any other cause. I have had more cases of disease from this than from almost any other; and consider myself as having been particularly fortunate in effecting cures in many cases of long standing, which were looked upon as hopeless, from the circumstance of no remedy having proved beneficial. In cases of irregular or suppressed menstruation, and where there has been no discharge, accompanied with the most dis-

tressing symptoms, as violent swellings of the abdomen after meals, however slight, so that the patient has been almost afraid to take food, accompanied with severe lancinating pains, spasmodic constriction, torpor of the liver, constipated bowels, defective nutrition, head-ache, sickness, languid circulation, pains in the limbs, hysteria, and great debility, at such times as the discharge ought to have taken place; as well as numerous other complaints, which it is unnecessary to mention here. One or two cases I shall give, which will, I hope, prove sufficient to shew the effect of the Dry Sulphurous Baths.

Case 1st. Miss —, a young lady, 18 years of age, of a fine florid complexion, but troubled with great menstrual irregularity, applied to me to know what effect I conceived the Bath would have upon her; stating to me, at the same time, that every sort of medicine had been used for three years without effect; her bowels, after the slightest repast, were so distended with flatus, as to give her the appearance of a woman seven months advanced in pregnancy, and she became so excessively fatigued from the slightest exer-

tions, as to debar her from the usual pleasures of young ladies. I desired her to leave off the medicines which she was then taking, and immediately to commence a course of alteratives, as it would be necessary for the bowels to be more than usually open during the time of her taking the Baths. After the second bath she found herself capable of eating her dinner with more pleasure than she had done before, not feeling in so great a degree that sensation of distension. After the fourth bath she could lace her stays, and make them meet; at the same time she assured me she had walked as far as the Chalybeate and back, about three miles, without feeling at all fatigued, and her appetite greatly increased. She took 10 baths, and was then, much against her inclination, obliged to leave Brighton.

Case 2d. Miss R. M. 25 years of age, had enjoyed, till her 16th year, a moderate share of health; but, at the period of menstruation, having caught cold, and not being properly attended to, found herself very ill with violent pains in the lower region of the abdomen, great disten-

tion, accompanied with disinclination for exertion, head-ache, sickness, and circulation extremely languid. She was sent to the sea-side, for the benefit of the warm sea-water baths, her medical attendants having in vain tried all the usual remedies ; but not finding any relief, her parent applied to me, to ascertain if she was likely to derive any benefit from the use of the Dry Sulphurous Bath. Having assured her there was the greatest probability of her daughter's recovery, she began their use ; and after the third bath found herself relieved from the intense headache and from the distention, which caused her to persevere ; at the fifth Bath her strength was considerably increased, and the stupor to which she had been accustomed began to give way ; the 10th Bath brought on the menstrual discharge, and having occasionally resumed them during a month, her health was completely re-established.

*DISEASES OF THE SKIN.**SCABIES OR ITCH.*

It is from this simple though distressing disease, the far greater number of the worst affections of the skin take their rise, from false delicacy urging persons in superior life to hide it from their medical attendants, under the idea of its having arisen from uncleanness or some improper connection.

The average number of Dry Sulphurous Baths for the cure of the above complaint, varies from nine to twelve, according to the length of time the patient has been afflicted with it.

Case 1st. The subject of this complaint was a young woman about 20 years of age, of a full habit of body, inclining to corpulency. From sleeping with her fellow servant, (newly hired) was attacked with a violent affection of itch, which spread itself completely over the body, the hands, wrists, and joints being particularly affected; was completely cured by taking five

Baths, in consequence of applying while the disease was fresh on her.

Case 2d. A young girl about 15 years of age, affected with this complaint; her case was a very distressing one, having had the disease on her nearly six months, from being afraid to mention it, lest her mistress should have turned her away. She was effectually cured by taking eight Baths.

SCABIES LYMPHATICA, OR WATERY ITCH.

Case 3d. The lady in this case was about the age of 40, and the mother of a large family; could give no other account of having taken the disease, than that of having had a servant about six months previous, who had been laid up with the itch, and as she had herself looked after the young woman, to prevent any probability of communication with her children, concluded the disease had laid dormant in the system till the summer. She described her complaint to be of a very distressing nature, and altho' there was no appearance upon her

hands and wrists, yet there was a constant and violent itching. Upon taking her second Bath the disease developed itself, coming out fully in transparent vesicles of a considerable size, and discharging a quantity of yellow matter, the back of the hands, between the fingers, on the wrists, the joints of the arms and legs, and between the toes, so as nearly to incapacitate her from walking; the itching at the time being scarcely bearable, and suffering extreme pain upon being touched. Having taken 9 Baths in 9 successive days, she was completely cured, the vesicles gradually dried up, the skin peeled off, and the itching totally ceased. She took three more Baths, entirely as she said to get rid of the disease, and left off perfectly well during her stay in Brighton, which exceeded two months; no return whatever had taken place.

*IMPETIGO OR RINGWORM, TETTER, AND SCAL'D
HEAD.*

These distressing complaints more commonly arise from scabies or itch, than from any other

cause, which being neglected, in the course of years get into the blood, and break out in the spring and autumn ; sometimes in small pimples, at other times having a scaly appearance, accompanied with intolerable itching, and occasioning the sufferers to apply their nails, thereby occasioning abrasion ; in the course of time a thickened state of the skin takes place, and becomes covered with large scales, which upon being removed, leave an appearance of shining redness behind them ; but which is shortly succeeded by a fresh stock of similar scales, without in any degree lessening the disease. In these complaints, sulphur in a state of gas or vapour, has been found eminently successful, and to have completely cured, when every other medicine had failed. In cases where the disease has not attained any great degree of violence, a few Baths have completed a cure ; but as these diseases in most cases have been of several years standing before the application of the Dry Sulphurous Baths have been applied, it of course takes a considerable number before the disease can be finally overcome. Independent of the above complaint are numerous others, to which

elderly people are more particularly subject, as prurigo, a disagreeable complaint, having numerous small red pimples, which are situated on the thighs, lower part of the body, &c. attended with considerable itching, particularly while undressing, getting warm in bed, standing near the fire, &c. For this complaint the Sulphurous Baths are of the greatest utility, scarcely ever failing to make a complete cure in a short space of time, where the patient makes a practice of attending with regularity, it being necessary to keep up a constant determination to the skin. Among the many disagreeable sensations of the above complaint, is that of a feeling as of insects crawling over the body; in others that of red hot pins driven into the skin. All these disagreeable effects are shortly removed, and the patient again enjoys the comfort of which in many cases he had been deprived for years.

Case 1st. An elderly gentleman between 70 and 80 years of age, who had been for some years attacked with this complaint, came to the Bath and stated to me, that his life was literally burthensome, as he had no sooner sat down in

a warm room and began to get a little comfortable, or laid down in his bed, than he felt so violent an itching over his whole body, as induced him to apply his nails, thereby creating a greater degree of pain than he had before experienced. Having taken the third Bath, the relief he experienced from the constant irritation having in a great degree subsided, induced him to persevere, and when he left Brighton, he declared to me, that he had not felt himself so happy for several years; every disagreeable sensation having vanished. He took 33 Baths in all.

Case 2d. A young gentleman had the greater part of his legs and thighs covered with an herpetic eruption, causing him great misery, and for which almost every medicine had been tried by the first members of the medical profession, without effect; was cured by taking 29 Baths.

Case 3rd. The young woman in this instance had an herpetic eruption on the limbs and arms, and the head thickly covered with scurf; every means had been tried to cure the complaint

without effect. Upon commencing the Baths, the scurfy exfoliation on the head gradually disappeared, and the eruption on the skin, (as the tendency to the natural perspiration increased) gradually died away. She took 37 Baths in all.

The above mentioned cases will, I trust, be sufficient to shew the many superior advantages which may be derived from the Dry Sulphurous Baths, and the great advantages they possess over all other Baths, tending more to bring on perspiration than any others. In numerous cases where persons have had a dry hard skin, and where perspiration has never appeared, they have in a few days brought on a regular natural flow. Thus, their superiority over every sort of perspiration produced from medicine is decided, as they produce the effect of strengthening the patient: now it is a well known fact that diaphoretics, which bring on powerful night sweats, invariably weaken. Many of the above patients have been in the early period of life, some in the middle, and in one or two instances far advanced in life, the oldest 84 years of age.

It is an erroneous opinion among many people, who have been suffering under the effects of diseases of the skin for many years, and who have had the first advice, that by taking 10 or a dozen Baths, they are to be effectually cured, and who immediately begin to despond from not finding it the case, probably from having been so frequently assured by their medical attendants, that in a very short space of time they were to be decidedly cured. It is too often the case with the faculty to assert such things, at the same time knowing the impossibility of doing what they so assert, which makes men sceptical, however good the means of cure may be. To persons having been so misled, I must beg leave to state, as far as I myself am concerned, that I never upon any consideration recommend a patient to take the Dry Sulphurous Baths, unless I have a well-grounded hope that a cure can be effected.

Diseases of the skin can scarcely ever come under my hands, until from length of time the patient has tried every other method of cure, (the Dry Sulphurous Baths having been so few years known in this country.)

Numerous cases of diseases, of various kinds, have occurred in Paris, where the use of the Baths were first brought into use, and since then have spread over distant parts of the continent, as Vienna, St. Petersburg, &c. and as they become more known, will, from their superior merits, supersede every other sort of Bath in this country.

Persons wishing to see the great effects which have been produced by the Sulphuric Fumigating Baths in diseases of the skin, I would recommend to read a treatise lately published by Sir Arthur Clarke, M.D. of Dublin, also the translation of Dr. Galés' description of the Dry Sulphurous Baths, by Rees Price, Surgeon.

In every species of complaint arising from suppressed perspiration, I would recommend the public to apply at the Dry Sulphurous Baths, No. 8, Maddox Street, Hanover Square, as they are certain there of meeting with that relief which can be had in no other way; these Baths being the means of producing it immediately, and increasing the circulating medium, without being put to any unnecessary

pain, by that uncertain and tedious method of rubbing the affected parts, and which is at best but a momentary relief.

In Rheumatism, Palsy, and Gout, these Baths have been peculiarly successful, and in Scorbatic and other cutaneous diseases, it is impossible to speak too highly of them.

Use
 Indicated Indian
 Vapor Baths
 with the art of
 Shampooing
 by a Native of India.
 Warm Fresh Water
 Shower Baths
 at all hours of the
 Day

